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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953

C.F. LYNCH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor J. Collard (Chairman)

Councillors

Mrs M.F. Hogg	Mrs E.A. Manley
Miss S.D. Crocker	W.H. Archbold
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J.C. Robertson	H.E. Russell
A.U. Whitworth	P.E. Wootton

C.D. Young

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Clerk to the Authority:

H.F. Abbott

Medical Officer of Health:

C.F. Lynch, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W.O. Armstrong, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

E.W.G. Rathmell, M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistant:

Miss D. Baldwin.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BROOK HOUSE,

DOVER.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District for the year 1953.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population was 10,930. The birth-rate was 20.0 per 1,000 of the population and the death rate 7.4; the corresponding rates for England and Wales were 15.5 and 11.4 respectively. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 10.7 as against 28.7 for 1952; the rate for England and Wales was 26.8.

These vital statistics may be considered very satisfactory, there being an all round improvement on the figures for 1952.

Apart from measles and whooping cough, which were prevalent during the year, the incidence of infectious disease was low. Two cases of poliomyelitis occurred; these were sporadic cases and no connection was established between them.

Sanitary conditions in the area received continuous supervision, all necessary steps being taken to ensure as far as possible freedom from nuisance and danger to health.

Thirty eight new houses were completed by the Council and fifty six by private enterprise.

I have to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year. My thanks are also due to the Senior Sanitary Inspector for information supplied and included in this Report.

I have the Honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant

C.F. LYNCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1954.

S E C T I O N A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The district is bounded roughly as follows:- On the North by the Rural Districts of Bridge-Blean and Eastry and the Borough of Deal; on the East by the sea; on the South by the Borough of Dover, the sea and the Borough of Folkestone, and on the West by the Rural Districts of Elham and Bridge-Blean.

The following Civil Parishes are situated within the boundary:-

Alkham, Capel le Ferne, Coldred, Denton, Guston, Hougham, East Langdon, West Langdon, Lydden, Ringwould, River, Shepherdswell, St. Margaret's, Temple Ewell, Whitfield, Wootton.

Area (including inland water), 25,797 acres.

Population: (a) Estimated mid-year Home population 10,93o

(b) Preliminary 1951 Census figures 10,493

(NOTE: All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population of 10,930).

Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,298.

Rateable Value, £88,037.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, £346 15s. 4d.

Density of Population - Persons per acre, 0.42.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

1. BIRTHS:

(a) Registered Live Births:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	81	95	176
Illegitimate	7	4	11
	88	99	187

Comparability Factor = 1.17

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.10
Crude Legitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	16.10
Crude Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	1.00
Adjusted Live Birth Rate for comparative purposes	20.00

(b) Stillbirths:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths) -

2. DEATHS:

	Male	Female	Total
Registered	49	52	101

Comparability Factor = 0.81

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	9.24
Adjusted for comparative purposes	7.48

NOTE:- Comparability Factors are factors derived by the Registrar General from the final 1951 Census populations in order to make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distributions of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. After multiplying the crude birth and death rates for the area by this comparability factor, the rates so adjusted are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corrsponding adjusted rate for other areas.

3. INFANT MORTALITY: Deaths under 1 year:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	2	-	2

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 10.70

4. SPECIALLY RECORDED DEATHS:

Cancer (all ages)	15
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

5. CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1953:

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-	2
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	5	7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	8	16
Coronary disease, angina	12	3	15
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart disease	6	9	15
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	5	9
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	1	4	5
All causes	49	52	101

6. COMPARATIVE RATES:

	Dover Rural District 1952 (per 1,000 Home Population)	Dover Rural District 1953 (per 1,000 Home Population)	England and Wales 1953
BIRTHS:			
Live Births Crude:	14.9	17.10	15.5
Live Births Adjusted:	17.88	20.00	-
Still Births	0.85	-	0.35
DEATHS:			
Crude:	10.16	9.24	11.4
Adjusted:	9.25	7.48	-
DEATHS: (per 1,000 Live Births)			
All causes under 1 year of age	28.7	10.7	26.8
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	-	-	1.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY: (per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births)			
All Causes	-	-	0.76

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material for examination may be submitted to the local Hospitals' Laboratory Service as well as to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone, where all routine examinations of samples of milk, water, etc., are carried out.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District and three hospitals in the Borough of Dover, which are administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, provide appropriate facilities for general medical, surgical, maternity and infectious cases.

Nursing in the Home

The Kent County Council, as the administrative Authority responsible, provides this service in the Rural Area.

Clinics and Welfare Centres

The County Council as Local Health and Education Authority provides various specialist and consultant services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants, toddlers and children of school age.

The Regional Hospital Board also provides local clinic services including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and of veneral disease.

S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

Some 96% of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from the public mains. Of the sixteen parishes in the district, twelve are supplied by the East Kent Water Company, two by the Folkestone Waterworks Company and two by the Mid Kent Water Company. Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave approval for the mains to be extended to supply two small areas at Alkham and Capel le Ferne with a main water supply.

Seven reports on samples taken from the public water supply show that the water is quite satisfactory.

Two samples of water were taken from rain water tanks. In both samples there was evidence of recent contamination.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There is one main sewerage system in operation in the area, serving part of Temple Ewell, otherwise sewage is disposed of by means of cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets and chemical closets.

Number of houses on main drainage	65
Number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks	2,484
Number of pail and chemical closets	749

The main sewer to serve the Council Housing Estate at Temple Ewell and part of the village of Temple Ewell was completed, and at the end of the year sixty five houses had been connected. The Council also have plans in course of preparation to extend the sewer to the remainder of the village.

The scheme to sewer Capel le Ferne was still deferred by the Ministry on account of the financial position of the country.

No further progress has yet been made with the schemes for the sewerage of Whitfield, Lydden, Shepherdswell, St. Margarets and Ringwould.

Scavenging.

The collection and removal of domestic refuse, the emptying of cesspools and collection of pails has been carried out by direct labour, and has worked very satisfactorily.

Salvage.

This is under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who reports on the year's work as follows:

Weights of material collected,	40 tons 12 cwt.
Amount received for the material.	£320.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(1) Number of inspections made during the year, 1,784.

(2) Number of notices served, Informal, 143; Statutory, Nil.

Drainage:	
(a) Reconstructed	23
Cesspools:	
(a) Repaired	-
(b) Emptied	1,478
Dampness	26
Roofs and Rain Water Pipes	19
Floors	8
Walls and Ceilings	16
Water Supplies	1
Miscellaneous	29

Shops Act, 1950.

Regular inspections of shops were made, and any necessary instructions given in regard to ventilation, temperature, lighting and sanitary accommodation. No formal action was necessary.

Factories Act, 1937.

(i) Registered Factories:

With mechanical power	21
Without mechanical power	18
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	4
	43

(ii) Inspections:

Premises	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	40	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	54	-	-
Other premises	7	-	-
	101	-	-

(iii) Defects:

Particulars	Number of Defects Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by	Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:- Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	-	1	-
	1	1	-	1	-

Verminous Premises.

Five complaints were received, and successful action taken to eradicate.

Destruction of Rats and Mice.

Gassing, trapping and poisoning are carried out by a full-time Rodent Operator. Regular surveys of the area have been made during the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

No. of infestations found:

Rats, Major	20
Rats, Minor	170
Mice, Major	-
Mice, Minor	21

Estimated Kill:

Rats	1,450
Mice	8
Number of rat bodies picked up	514
Number of mice bodies picked up	83

Camping Sites.

There are five sites registered in the district, for the summer months only, viz Capel le Ferne 5. These are kept under regular supervision.

In November, 1952 a suggested standard as to number of caravans per acre, sanitary accommodation and water supply, etc., was submitted to the Council and adopted. The proprietors of the caravan sites were notified of the work required to bring their sites up to this standard, and all the necessary work had been carried out by the time the 1953 season commenced.

S E C T I O N D

HOUSING

Houses were inspected upon complaint, and notices served in the case of urgent repairs being required.

Fifty eight Building Licences were issued, and three hundred and fifty inspections were made with regard to these.

During the year the Council's post war housing programme was proceeded with, and at the end of the year thirty eight houses were completed. There were no houses under construction at the end of the year.

The two hundred and eighty four houses built under the post war housing schemes are as follows:

Alkham 14; Capel 14; Coldred 6; East Langdon 6; Guston 8; Hougham 16; Ringwould 38; St. Margaret's 54; Shepherdswell 50; Temple Ewell 48; Whitfield 22; River 4; Wootton 4.

Fifty six private enterprise houses were completed during the year, and thirty three were under construction.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	137
Number of inspections made for the purpose	214
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	9
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	5
Number of houses demolished	5

S E C T I O N E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made regular visits to all registered premises.

(a) Number of Registered Distributors	6
(b) Number of Registered Dairies	1

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations:

The following licences were granted by the Dover Rural District Council:

Dealer's Pasteurised	7
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested	5
Dealer's Sterilised	1

One sample of mixed milk was taken for biological testing, but there was no evidence of tuberculosis.

On receipt of the result of biological testing by another authority of milk from a producer in the district before being pasteurised, investigation was made at the farm where it was found that some four gallons of milk daily were being retailed locally in the raw state. Having reason to believe that the milk was tuberculous infected, a notice under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 was issued to the producer prohibiting the sale of his milk for human consumption unless the whole supply was subjected to Pasteurisation before consumption.

Investigations at the farm by the Divisional Veterinary Officer revealed the presence in the herd of a tuberculous cow which was subsequently slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. The herd being then regarded as non-tuberculous, the afore-mentioned notice was officially withdrawn.

Q Fever Investigation.

An investigation was carried out during the year in conjunction with the Q Fever Laboratory of the Medical Research Council into a small outbreak of Q Fever in the Rural District especially in relation to the possibility of infection from a raw milk supply.

Q Fever Investigation.

Four confirmed cases of the disease were discovered and all resided in the vicinity of a farm where small percentages of both sheep and dairy cattle were found to be infected

Raw milk from the farm was supplied to several households in the neighbourhood but to only two of the cases concerned. There was no history of illness among the other consumers at the relevant time.

Consequently a milk borne infection was considered unlikely and no action was taken in respect of the milk supply.

Meat and Other Foods

The slaughterhouses in the district were closed down at the outbreak of war, and the meat supply is now procured from the Government slaughterhouse and Wholesale Meat Supply Depot.

The following inspections of food shops were made:

(i)	Butchers	16
(ii)	Bakehouses	20
(iii)	Other food preparing places	37

Foodstuffs condemned during 1953.

Canned Goods - 108 tins.
41 dozen Chocolate Bars.

Ice Cream.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1939, makes it compulsory for all premises used for the sale, or manufacture for sale of ice cream to be registered with the Local Authority.

Number of premises registered 53

Six of these premises did not sell ice cream during the year.

Twenty five samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The results were classified as follows:

Grade 1	23
Grade 2	2

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were confirmed during the year.

S E C T I O N F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) Notified during 1953 - By Age Groups (Corrected).

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)
Age unknown	-	-	-	1	-
Under 1 year	-	-	-	2	-
1 - 2 years	-	-	10	10	-
2 - 3 years	-	-	12	10	-
3 - 4 years	-	-	14	15	-
4 - 5 years	-	-	21	9	-
5 - 10 years	1	-	70	19	1
10 - 15 years	-	-	4	1	-
15 - 20 years	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 35 years	-	-	-	1	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	1
45 - 65 years	-	-	1	-	-
65 years and upwards	-	1	-	-	-
	1	1	132	68	2
Admitted to Hospital	-	-	-	4	2
Notification Rates per 1,000 Home Population	0.09	0.09	12.08	6.22	0.18

2. Diphtheria Immunisation.

The scheme for the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria continued throughout the year under the administration of the Kent County Council and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information:-

Number of children resident in the Rural District of Dover, who during 1953 received:-

(a) Primary Inoculations 206
(b) Reinforcing Inoculations 177

Number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1953, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date:

Under 5 years	From 5-15 years	Total
549	1,259	1,808

3. Vaccination.

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health the following information has been furnished in regard to the vaccinations against smallpox recorded in the Rural District of Dover during 1953:

	Age at 31st December, 1953:-				
	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 and over	Total
Number vaccinated	59	45	4	8	116
Number re-vaccinated	-	1	3	15	19

4. Tuberculosis - Annual Statement of Cases of Tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
(a) Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register as at 1st January, 1953.	48	44	17	14
(b) Number of Cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time during year.	4	2	-	1
(c) Restored to Register.	1	-	-	-
(d) Added to Register otherwise than by formal notification.	1	4	-	-
(e) Cases removed from Register during year including recoveries or deaths (excluding deaths of unnotified cases).	-	3	-	1
(f) Cases on Register at end of 1953.	54	47	17	14

During the year there were two deaths of un-notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis relating to residents within the district.

Analysis of new cases notified in 1953.

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 -	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	-	-
15 -	1	1	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	1
35 -	-	1	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-
65 +	1	-	-	-
Total	4	2	-	1

ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN 1953 OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER:

Nil Return

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculous person employed in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936: Section 172

No action was necessary with regard to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital during the year.

Disinfection.

The Rural District Council does not possess a disinfecting plant and, where necessary, infected bedding and clothing is disinfected by arrangement with the Hospital Authority.

During the year five batches of clothing were dealt with in this manner.

Number of premises disinfected - 12.